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LETTER DATED 18 FEBRUARY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you of an incident that took place on 11 February 1997. At 1200 hours on that day two Kuwaiti gunboats armed with PKT machine-guns were observed near buoy 15. They directed random fire towards the Iraqi side before returning in the direction of Kuwait.

I request your intervention with Kuwait with a view to halting the repeated acts of aggression being committed by Kuwaiti gunboats against Iraq and ensuring that they do not recur. Such acts are in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and public international law, and they have the effect of creating a state of instability and unrest in this part of the region. I also affirm the legally established right of the Republic of Iraq to seek compensation for the damage caused to its property by this act of aggression, in accordance with the principle of State responsibility.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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